IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the pending claims. The deletion of subject matter in one or more claims and the cancellation of one or more claims are effected without prejudice.

1. - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A sustained release pharmaceutical composition in solid oral dosage form having a core, said sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising, in the core thereof, a homogenous mixture comprising

a pharmaceutically effective amount of a drug;

a sustained release carrier in an effective amount to retard the release of the drug from said composition when placed in an aqueous system;

a water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose;

maltodextrin; and

optionally a lubricating effective amount of a lubricant;

wherein the weight ratio of the total amount of said water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose to maltodextrin ranges from about 50:1 to about 1:50, and wherein said water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose in combination with maltodextrin further affects the release rate of the drug from said pharmaceutical composition.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the sustained release polymer is a mixture of cellulose ether and xanthan gum.

41. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 40 wherein the weight ratio of cellulose ether to xanthan gum ranges from about 1:0.1 to about 1:2.

42. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 40 wherein the cellulose ether is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

43. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the weight ratio of water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose to maltodextrin in the core ranges from about 20:1 to about 1:20.

44. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 43 wherein the weight ratio of water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose to maltodextrin in the core ranges from about 9:1 to about 1:9.

45. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the drug is metformin, metronidazole or carbamazepine or mesalamine.

46. (Currently amended) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose is selected from the group consisting of starch ~~or~~, microcrystalline cellulose, and silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

47. (Currently amended) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim ~~46~~ 38 wherein the water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose is microcrystalline cellulose.

48. (Currently amended) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim ~~47~~ 38 wherein the ~~microcrystalline~~ water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose is silicified microcrystalline cellulose.

49. - 53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the sum of the maltodextrin and the water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose in the core ranges from about 5% to about 95% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

55. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 54 wherein the sum of the maltodextrin and the water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose in the core ranges from about 10% to about 60% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

56. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 55 wherein the sum of the maltodextrin and the water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose in the core ranges from about 20% to about 50% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

57. - 58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the solid oral dosage form is a pellet, tablet or capsule.

60. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 38 wherein the sustained release polymer is a hydrophilic polymer.

61. - 70. (Cancelled)

71. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 60 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is a hydrophilic gum, hydrophilic cellulose ether or polyalkylene oxide.

72. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 60 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is acacia, gum tragacanth, locust bean gum, guar gum, karaya gum, agar, pectin, carrageen, xanthan gum, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, soluble alginate, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl-cellulose, carboxy polymethylene or a combination thereof.

73. (Previously Presented) The sustained release pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 72 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is xanthan gum, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose or a mixture of xanthan gum and hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

74. (New) A sustained release pharmaceutical composition in solid oral dosage form having a core, said sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising, in the core thereof, a homogenous mixture comprising

a pharmaceutically effective amount of a drug;

a sustained release polymer in an effective amount to retard the release of the drug from said composition when placed in an aqueous system;

a water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose selected from the group consisting of starch, microcrystalline cellulose, and silicified microcrystalline cellulose;

maltodextrin; and

optionally a lubricating effective amount of a lubricant;

wherein the weight ratio of the total amount of said water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose to maltodextrin ranges from about 10:1 to about 1:10, and wherein said water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose in combination with maltodextrin further affects the release rate of the drug from said pharmaceutical composition.

75. (New) A sustained release pharmaceutical composition in solid oral dosage form having a core, said sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising, in the core thereof, a homogenous mixture comprising

a pharmaceutically effective amount of a drug;

a sustained release polymer in an effective amount to retard the release of the drug from said composition when placed in an aqueous system;

a water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose selected from the group consisting of starch, microcrystalline cellulose, and silicified microcrystalline cellulose;

maltodextrin; and

optionally a lubricating effective amount of a lubricant;

wherein the weight ratio of the total amount of said water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose to maltodextrin ranges from about 1:1 to about 1:2, and wherein said water insoluble or

partially water insoluble cellulose in combination with maltodextrin further affects the release rate of the drug from said pharmaceutical composition.

76. (New) A method of providing a sustained release of a drug in a solid oral dosage form pharmaceutical composition having a core, said sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising, in the core thereof, a homogenous mixture comprising

a pharmaceutically effective amount of a drug;

a sustained release polymer in an effective amount to retard the release of the drug from said composition when placed in an aqueous system;

a water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose;

maltodextrin; and

optionally a lubricating effective amount of a lubricant;

wherein the weight ratio of the total amount of said water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose to maltodextrin ranges from about 50:1 to about 1:50, and wherein said water insoluble or partially water insoluble cellulose in combination with maltodextrin controls the release rate of the drug from said pharmaceutical composition.